

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DIWY-01 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7958

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, AORG

SUBJ: WCIWY -- HIGH LEVEL HEADS OF DELEGATION

REF: A) USUN 1722; B) MANILA 7185

1. I NOTE THAT, WHETHER OR NOT BY GOM DESIGN, WOMEN'S CONFERENCE HERE BEGINNING JUNE 19 IS ATTRACTING MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT AND WELL-KNOWN WOMEN AS HEADS OF THEIR COUNTRIES' DELEGATIONS. MRS. MARCOS OF PHILIPPINES IS MOST RECENT ADDITION TO A LIST WHICH NOW INCLUDES MRS. SADAT, MRS. BANDAKRANAIE, MRS. PERON, MRS. GHANDI, PRINCESS ASHRAF, PLUS A NUMBER OF WOMEN CABINET MINISTERS FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, ETC. LAST NIGHT AT DINNER I WAS TOLD BY ITALIAN, GERMAN AND FRENCH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS WOULD BE HEADED BY WOMEN CABINET MINISTERS.

2. I HAVE HEARD INFORMALLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS ENGAGED IN PUTTING TOGETHER A DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDES SOME TOP-FLIGHT WOMEN. I THINK IT IS KEY THAT THE DELEGATION ACTUALLY BE HEADED BY A WOMAN REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT DISTINGUISHED MEN MAY BE ON THE DELEGATION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH CEREMONIAL MATTERS AND HEAVILY COVERED BY PRESS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ETC. TODAY IN TALKING TO FOREIGN MINISTER HE TOLD ME THAT

GOM STILL INTENDED TO HAVE ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA
HEAD THE MEXICAN DELEGATION. HE FELT THIS WAS A TACTICAL
BLUNDER AS IT WAS PREFERABLE TO HAVE A WOMAN CHIEF OF
DELEGATION OR PRESIDING OFFICER FOR THIS PARTICULAR EVENT.

3. THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE FACED WITH STIFF CHALLENGES
AT WCIWY, PARTICULARLY FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SEEKING
TO ENLIST THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD IN THEIR CRUSADE FOR A
"NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER", AND IT'S GOING TO NEED
ALL THE PRESTIGE IT CAN MUSTER IN ORDER TO KEEP ATTENTION
FOCUSED ON GENUINE WOMEN'S INTERESTS (STATE 119806).

4. OBVIOUSLY IT IS PREFERRABLE FOR TOP WOMAN LEADER TO COME
AND REMAIN THROUGH THE ENTIRE CONFERENCE, THUS GIVING
LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO THE DELEGATION. I UNDERSTAND,
HOWEVER, THAT THE TEAM IS TO BE A GOOD ONE AND THUS A
KEY WOMAN LEADER OF TRULY NATIONAL STANDING, IF ONLY ABLE
TO COME FOR FIRST TWO OR THREE DAYS, WOULD STILL BE A VISIBLE
SIGN OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS CONFERENCE.
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